

[Share](#)[Tweet](#)[Share](#)

Thank you for your subscription to Rep. Dan Huberty's Newsletter. If you wish to unsubscribe, please use the SafeUnsubscribe option at the bottom of this email.



May 24, 2019

Thank you for subscribing to my e-newsletter. Below you will find updates from federal, state and local agencies on events from the past week and the week ahead. As well, please note the section below with information and resources for those affected by recent severe weather.

There are only three days left in the legislative session. Today was the deadline for the House to act on Senate amendments. The next few days are dedicated to conference committees that allow the two houses to reconcile differences on bills. The HB3 Conference Committee came together yesterday with Governor Abbott, Speaker Bonnen and Lt. Gov. Patrick to announce the finalization of the school finance reform plan. We worked hard to get to this point and I am extremely grateful to each of the House Members for their time and dedication getting this across the finish line. With a few days to spare, we were able to present a solid plan to update public school finance in Texas and I could not be prouder of each of them.

The press conference about HB3 can be viewed by clicking the link below. Take a minute to also see what people are saying about final bill - check out www.TheTexasPlan.com for more details.

As we move into the weekend, we will continue through bills returning from the Senate with amendments. Sunday is the last day for us to act on Conference Committee Reports, while only minor corrections are permitted on Monday. For more up-to-date information, please follow us on social media. Tune in any day to watch us by clicking here: www.house.texas.gov.

Should you have questions regarding anything in this newsletter, please feel free to contact us directly using the information provided at the bottom of this email.

Sincerely,



May 2019 Calendar

Download my May 2019 calendar by clicking the link below. This month is full of events in and around Texas that could be fun or useful to you and your family! This new format allows you to save the document for printing or sending to your family members.

[illegible]

Thank you for downloading my Calendar for the month of May. You can use this document to view the links that contain more information about various events occurring in House District 17 and in Austin, Texas. You may also print it to get a basic idea of what I'll be up to this month. I hope to see you around town!

Sincerely,

State Representative Dan Huberty
House District 17

HB 3: Transformational School Finance Reform

PROPERTY TAX **RELIEF**. RECAPTURE **REDUCTION**. EDUCATION **REFORM**.



- PUTS MORE MONEY INTO CLASSROOMS *TO ACCELERATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT***
- Significantly increases the Basic Allotment per student
 - Funds full-day Pre-K for low income students
 - Adopts high-quality K-3 reading standards so students read at grade level by 3rd grade
 - Creates the first dyslexia identification program in Texas history
 - Accelerates student achievement via College, Career & Military Readiness (CCMR) outcomes bonuses, dual-language programs, and extended year summer programs for economically disadvantaged students
 - Creates a "Do Not Hire" registry to protect children in the classroom
 - Funds transportation at a rate of \$1.00/mile and quadruples funding for building and equipping new facilities
 - Directs more funds to schools with higher concentrations of under-served students, including dropouts, students in special education, and residential treatment facilities
 - And more!



- Provides over \$5 billion in statewide property tax relief
- Lowers school property tax rates by an average of 8 cents in 2020 and 13 cents in 2021
- Provides an additional 2.5% tax compression starting in 2021
- Ensures taxpayer dollars are used responsibly by requiring districts to conduct efficiency audits before going to voters with a tax increase
- Increases the state's share of education funding from 38% to 45%



- MODERNIZES OUTDATED SCHOOL FINANCE FORMULAS *TO REDUCE RECAPTURE***
- Reduces recapture payments by \$3.6 billion, a 47% reduction this biennium
 - Increases equity within the school finance system
 - Gives ISDs the ability to keep more of the money they earn from their local property

**Not an appropriation. The reduction in recapture is a cumulative effect of the \$11.6B investment made in HB 3 to buy down property taxes and reform school finance formulas.*



- ENERGIZES TEACHER PAY & INVESTS IN PROGRAMS *TO PROMOTE TEACHER QUALITY***
- Compensates educators as true professionals by unleashing over \$2 billion in dynamic pay raises for teachers, librarians, counselors, and nurses
 - Creates a merit/incentive pay program for high-quality educators to receive additional pay
 - Increases the minimum teacher salary schedule
 - Invests in professional development and mentoring programs for new teachers

Meeting the educational needs of today's students and tomorrow's workforce.

HB 3: Praise From Education and Business Leaders



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE PRESS CONFERENCE](#)

Governor Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and members of both the House and Senate HB 3 Conference Committees held a press conference Thursday outside the Governor's Mansion to announce a finalized school finance package. Click below to watch the press conference in full.

HB 3: Praise From Education and Business Leaders

Teach Plus Texas' Lindsay Sobel: "HB 3 provides substantial new funding for education, strategically allocated to ensure a bright future for our students and the Lone Star State" "Texas students deserve a world class education regardless of their zip code. HB 3 provides substantial new funding for education, strategically allocated to ensure a bright future for our students and the Lone Star State." (Lindsay Sobel, Executive Director, Teach Plus Texas, 5/23/19)

Commit Partnership and InvestEdTX's Todd Williams: "I'm confident our state will remain the economic powerhouse it is today and continue to be a place families are proud to call home." "I couldn't be more excited about House Bill 3's ability to create a more equitable school finance system that provides all of our kids the education they deserve. I'm so grateful for Gov. Abbott, Lt. Gov. Patrick, Speaker Bonnen, Chairman Huberty and Chairman Taylor who collectively put together a bold plan and saw it through to fruition. By wholly reworking our finance system to focus on providing students with the resources they need to succeed, I'm confident our state will remain the economic powerhouse it is today and continue to be a place families are proud to call home." (Todd Williams, Chairman and CEO, Commit Partnership and InvestEdTX, 5/23/19)

Texas Public Policy Foundation's Kevin Roberts: "It is a strong plan that will lower the burden on taxpayers, improve educational outcomes, and protect and grow our economy." "The plan delivers on the promise to cut property taxes, fund education, and enact important reforms that will keep Texas the most prosperous state in the nation. TPPF applauds the extraordinary leadership of Governor Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Patrick, and Speaker Bonnen in working together to put the interest of Texans first. It is a strong plan that will lower the burden on taxpayers, improve educational outcomes, and protect and grow our economy." (Kevin Roberts, Executive Director, Texas Public Policy Foundation, 5/23/19)

National Federation Of Independent Business' Annie Spilman: "House Bill 3 is a big deal for small business." "House Bill 3 is a big deal for small business. Property tax rates are a perennial problem that's gotten worse and worse over the years. We're at a point now where property taxes in Texas are rising faster than people's incomes. That affects everybody, but it can be devastating for small businesses. Small business is the engine that drives the state's economy. We need meaningful reforms that ease the property tax burden on Texans and makes it easier for small businesses to expand and create jobs. On behalf of our small business members, I want to thank Governor Abbott, Speaker Bonnen, and Lieutenant Governor Patrick for coming together and agreeing to this transformative plan." (Annie Spilman, Texas State Director, National Federation Of Independent Business, 5/23/19)

Texas REALTORS® Tray Bates: "We thank our state leaders for delivering substantial reforms that benefit all property taxpayers." "We are pleased to see the state's increased investment in teachers and classrooms, coupled with transparent property tax notifications and automatic rollback tax-rate elections. We thank our state leaders for delivering substantial reforms that benefit all property taxpayers." (Tray Bates, Chairman, Texas REALTORS®, 5/23/19)

Premont Independent School District's Steve VanMatre: "I applaud Governor Abbott and

Senate and the House leadership in putting together this legislation that will ensure more dollars make it into our classrooms, while providing much needed additional compensation for our teachers and property relief for our citizens." "As a district we have made it a priority to maximize every dollar that's invested in our students, teachers, and the community. I applaud Governor Abbott and Senate and the House leadership in putting together this legislation that will ensure more dollars make it into our classrooms, while providing much needed additional compensation for our teachers and property relief for our citizens." (Steve VanMatre, Superintendent, Premont Independent School District, 5/23/19)

Emergency Flooding Resources

Impacted by Recent Severe Weather?

Immediate Assistance: Call 2-1-1 TEXAS/United Way HELPLINE is the information resource before, during and after natural disasters. **Call 2-1-1** for food assistance replacement of clothes or furniture, etc.

Have you reported your flood damage?: The Harris County Home Flooding & Damage Report is used by the County is designed to assist the Harris County Flood Control District and the Harris County Engineering Department in determining what areas have experienced structural flooding and damage due to severe weather. This report will allow damage assessment teams to quickly deploy to those locations to assess the area in the wake of an incident. Your information will be sent directly to those agencies and will not be shared with anyone outside of government. **ONLY Enter information regarding severe weather of May 2019.**

CLICK HERE TO REPORT FLOOD DAMAGE

Crisis Cleanup: Residents that need cleanup assistance due to the severe weather and flooding in May 2019 are encouraged to register their home with Crisis Cleanup by calling **844-965-1386**. Crisis Cleanup is an online database used by local faith-based organizations and disaster relief agencies to coordinate cleanup efforts after a disaster. There are no guarantees for service, but all disaster survivors with cleanup needs are asked to register. Residents who are selected to receive cleanup assistance from a faith-based or disaster relief organizations will receive a call from the organization to schedule a date and time for assistance to be provided. The Crisis Cleanup line will be open Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm, through May 24, 2019.

Repairing your home?: If you are beginning to make repairs to your home, please ensure the appropriate permit has been obtained from the [City of Houston Permitting Center](#). By state law, all electrical work requires a permit and must be completed by a licensed electrical contractor. For questions, contact Electrical Inspections at (832) 394-8860. Permits are also required for all other mechanical work. For questions, contact Mechanical Inspections at (832) 394-8850. Permits are **not** required to replace bathroom or kitchen faucets, ballcocks or water control valves, garbage disposals, or water closets. Permits are required for all other plumbing work, including sinks. For questions, contact Plumbing Inspections at (832) 394-8870.

For homes located in the floodplain: You must contact the City of Houston Floodplain Management Office prior to making any repairs at (832) 394-8854. For information on flood damage repair requirements, visit floodplain.houstontx.gov. The City of Houston's interactive mapping system can help residents find their estimated Base Flood Elevation (BFE) or 500 year flood elevation for their property online [here](#) (must use internet explorer), instructions to navigate this site can be found [here](#). The Houston Permitting Center Main Office is located at 1002 Washington Avenue, Houston, Texas, 77002 and open Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Applications can be routed from the Kingwood Satellite permitting offices to the Main Office for customers not wanting to drive: Kingwood Satellite Office at 3915 Rustic Woods, Kingwood, TX 77339, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

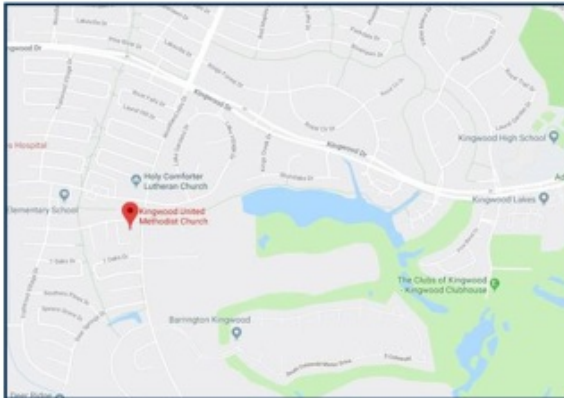


DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER OPENS

May 20, 2019—May 31, 2019

Were you affected by the May 2019 Floods?

Stop in to speak with a Resource Navigator



Hours:

9:00 am—6:00 pm

Saturday, May 25, 2019: 9am—1:00 pm

Closed Memorial Day (May 27, 2019)

Location:

Kingwood United Methodist Church
1799 Woodland Hills Drive, Rm K105
Kingwood, TX 77339

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Email: hrc@csd.hctx.net

Phone: 832-927-4955

Harris County Community Services Department

8410 Lantern Point Drive

Houston, Texas 77054

Updates from Houston

Critical Lake Houston Spillway Dam Project Reduces Lake Level



City of Houston

Houston Public Works
Parks & Recreation
Joint Media Release

Maintenance Lowering Lake Houston

HOUSTON -6 inches on Monday, May 20th to allow contractors to begin a rehabilitation project on the dam. Lake Houston will be lowered another 6 inches on Tuesday, May 28th following Memorial Day weekend, for a total of 1 foot. Work on the dam...

[Read more](#)

myemail.constantcontact.com

May 25 - 27: Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday

You can buy certain **ENERGY STAR®** energy-efficient products tax-free during the annual Texas **ENERGY STAR Sales Tax Holiday**. There is no limit on the number of qualifying items you can buy, and you do not need to give the seller an exemption certificate to buy items tax free. This year's tax-free ENERGY STAR Sales Tax Holiday begins Saturday, May 25, and goes

through midnight on Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day).

Qualifying Products

You can buy, rent or lease only the following ENERGY STAR-labeled items tax free:

- air conditioners (with a sales price of \$6,000 or less)
- refrigerators (with a sales price of \$2,000 or less)
- ceiling fans
- incandescent and fluorescent light bulbs
- clothes washers
- dishwashers
- dehumidifiers
- programmable thermostats*

*The ENERGY STAR qualification for programmable thermostats was suspended on Dec. 31, 2009. The ENERGY STAR Sales Tax Holiday exemption for programmable thermostats only applies to those with ENERGY STAR labels before the suspension.

Non-Qualifying Products

Examples of items that do not qualify and are taxable, even if they are ENERGY STAR-labelled include:

- water heaters
- clothes dryers
- freezers
- stoves
- attic fans
- heat pumps
- wine refrigerators
- kegerators
- beverage chillers

"Adopt-A-Drain" Program Launched to Help Remove Debris and Reduce Street Flooding



Adopt-A-Drain Program

"We know that there will be another storm and this program will make a daily difference in the lives of our residents by making sure that your storm drainage system is ready for the next storm," said, Carol Haddock, director Houston Public Works, ...

[Read more](#)

www.houstontx.gov

DSHS: Warm, Wet Weather Heightens West Nile Concern in Texas

A mild winter, even by Texas standards, means public health officials are on guard for a possible increase in West Nile virus cases this year. Research shows that warmer winter temperatures are associated with more West Nile cases the following summer. Plus, heavy and widespread rain

across Texas this spring has left behind standing water that provides mosquitoes ample breeding ground to multiply and spread their misery.

Fortunately, there are things you can do to protect yourself now and throughout mosquito season:

- Keep mosquitoes from reproducing by regularly draining standing water, including water that collects in toys, tires, trash cans, buckets, clogged rain gutters and plant pots and saucers. Change the water in pet dishes, birdbaths and wading pools at least every two or three days.
- Prevent bites by using an approved insect repellent every time you go outside, according to the directions on the label. EPA-approved repellents include DEET, picaridin, IR3535 and oil of lemon eucalyptus/p-menthane-diol.
- Create a barrier by covering up with long sleeves and pants.
- Keep mosquitoes out by using air conditioning or ensuring all doors and windows have screens that are in good repair.
-

Taking these actions at home and while traveling will help protect against Zika, dengue and other illnesses spread by mosquitoes. “Make fighting the bite a habit for you and the ones you love,” said Dr. John Hellerstedt, commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services. “These simple steps can go a long way toward protecting yourself and your family and neighbors from a potentially deadly infection.”

There were 146 cases of West Nile disease, including 11 deaths, in Texas last year according to DSHS provisional data. Over the last five years, Texas has had 1,305 cases and 57 deaths. Most people exposed to West Nile virus don’t get sick, but about 20 percent develop symptoms like headache, fever, muscle and joint aches, nausea and fatigue. In a very small share, less than one percent, the virus affects the nervous system, leading to a more serious illness that can cause neck stiffness, disorientation, tremors, convulsions, paralysis and even death.

There’s no vaccine to prevent West Nile illness in people and no medication to treat the infection. Some people may need to be hospitalized to treat the symptoms. West Nile virus can cause serious illness in people of any age, but those over 60 years old are at a greater risk, as are people with health conditions like cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure or kidney disease. Anyone with symptoms who suspects West Nile virus should contact their health care provider.

DPS: Enforcement Ramp Up For Memorial Day

This Memorial Day weekend, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is joining law enforcement efforts across the state to help keep Texas roadways safe and encourage motorists to practice safe driving habits. From Friday, May 24, through Monday, May 27, DPS Troopers will be on the lookout for intoxicated drivers, as well as drivers violating speed limit, seat belt and other traffic laws.

“Memorial Day pays tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in serving and protecting our country, and we know many of you will spend the long holiday weekend with family and friends to honor these heroic men and women,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw. “As you make plans for this weekend, we’re asking all Texans to make safety a top priority. If you’re on the road, be sure to drive sober, wear your seatbelt and obey all traffic laws to help prevent senseless tragedies from occurring. DPS will do our part to keep Texans safe by ramping up patrols on our roadways this Memorial Day weekend.”

During the 2018 Memorial Day holiday weekend, DPS Troopers issued nearly 65,000 citations and warnings, including 1,203 seat belt and child safety restraint tickets. DPS enforcement efforts also resulted in 391 DWI arrests, 225 fugitive arrests and 229 felony arrests. DPS also supports the state’s “Click It or Ticket” enforcement campaign, which runs through June 2. Now in its 17th year, “Click It or Ticket” encourages drivers and passengers to comply with state seat belt laws. Drivers are urged to follow these safety tips this Memorial Day weekend:

- Do not drink and drive. Make alternate travel plans if you are consuming alcohol.
- *Move Over or Slow Down* for police, fire, EMS, Texas Department of Transportation vehicles and tow trucks stopped on the side of the road with emergency lights activated. Also, show the same courtesy to fellow drivers stopped along the road.
- If you can *Steer It, Clear It*: If you are involved in a non-injury crash and your vehicle can be moved, clear the traffic lanes to minimize the impact on traffic. Leaving vehicles in a traffic lane not only increases traffic congestion, but it also leaves those involved with an increased risk of harm and chance for a secondary collision. On some highways, it is actually a violation of the law to not move your vehicle over when it is safe to do so.
- Slow down — especially in bad weather, construction areas, heavy traffic and unfamiliar areas.
- Eliminate distractions while driving, including the use of mobile devices. Texas law prohibits using a portable wireless device to read, write or send an electronic message unless the vehicle is stopped.

- Buckle up every one in the vehicle — it's the law.
- Drive defensively, as holiday travel may present additional challenges.
- Don't drive fatigued — allow plenty of time to reach your destination.
- If you see a road hazard or if you observe anything suspicious, report it to the nearest law enforcement agency.
- On multi-lane roadways, use the left lane for passing only. Not only is it courteous driving and avoids impeding traffic, Texas law requires slower traffic to keep to the right and to only use the left lane for passing (when posted).
- Before your trip begins, make sure your vehicle is properly maintained and always double check to make sure all cargo is secure.
- Monitor weather and road conditions wherever you are traveling. For road conditions/closings in Texas, visit [Drive Texas](#).

Rep. Huberty's Legislative Agenda

To see a list of Rep. Huberty's filed legislation, [click here](#).

[HJR 3](#) - Proposing a constitutional amendment to provide funding for the cost of maintaining and operating the public school system and to reduce school district ad valorem tax rates through an increase in the state sales and use tax rate.

[HJR 121](#) - Proposing a constitutional amendment allowing increased distributions to the available school fund.

[HB 3](#) - Relating to public school finance and public education.

[HB 76](#) - Relating to cardiac assessments of high school participants in extracurricular athletic activities sponsored or sanctioned by the University Interscholastic League.

[HB 734](#) - Relating to the carrying of concealed or holstered handguns by certain handgun license holders attending a meeting of the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school.

[HB 766](#) - Relating to exemptions for disabled peace officers and fire fighters from payment of tuition and fees at public institutions of higher education.

[HB 791](#) - Relating to the definition of volunteer fire department for purposes of certain motor fuel tax exemptions.

[HB 802](#) - Relating to voting rights and eligibility for office of residents of certain districts subject to a strategic partnership agreement.

[HB 813](#) - Relating to money used by counties that participate in the low-income vehicle repair assistance, retrofit, and accelerated vehicle retirement program.

[HB 831](#) - Relating to the residency requirement to be eligible for public office.

[HB 851](#) - Relating to the use of individual graduation committees and other alternative methods to satisfy certain public high school graduation requirements.

[HB 907](#) - Relating to the penalty for failure to register certain aggregate production operations with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

[HB 908](#) - Relating to the regulation of aggregate production operation by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; increasing an administrative penalty.

[HB 909](#) - Relating to best management practices for aggregate production operations.

[HB 911](#) - Relating to the creation and functions of the Lake Houston Watershed Commission.

[HB 1652](#) - Relating to the public resale by means of a public auction using online bidding and sale of property purchased by a taxing unit at an ad valorem tax sale.

[HB 1671](#) - Relating to water quality protection areas.

[HB 1725](#) - Relating to retired members of the Texas State Guard.

[HB 2795](#) - Relating to a one-time supplemental annuity payment to certain retirees and beneficiaries of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

[HB 2961](#) - Relating to an allotment under the foundation school program for students with

dylexia or related disorders.

[HB 2983](#) - Relating to the administration to public school students in certain grades of state-administered assessment instruments.

[HB 3599](#) - Relating to certain increases in benefits under the firefighters' relief and retirement fund in certain municipalities.

[HB 3904](#) - Relating to public school accountability, including certain assessment requirements, performance standards, and sanctions, including sanctions affecting educator contracts, and to providing alternative methods to satisfy certain public high school graduation requirements.

[HB 3906](#) - Relating to the adoption and administration of assessment instruments used to assess the performance of public school students.

[HB 3913](#) - Relating to an exception from required disclosure under the public information law for certain personal information obtained by certain flood control districts.

[HB 3967](#) - Relating to access to certain health information of public school students during an emergency evacuation.

[HB 4334](#) - Relating to the creation of the office of inspector general at the Texas Education Agency to investigate the administration of public education.

[HB 4335](#) - Relating to the assessment and collection of ad valorem taxes imposed by a school district.

[HB 4611](#) - Relating to certain distributions to the available school fund.

[HB 4621](#) - Relating to the imposition of sales and use taxes and the allocation of certain revenue from sales and use taxes to school district property tax relief and public education; authorizing the imposition of a tax.

Constituent Resources

Need Assistance?

Our office is always ready to assist you. Call or email us and we will do our best to help. Many State Agencies also have hotlines or citizen assistance offices to assist you. That contact information is available at this link, in alphabetical order:

<http://www.lrl.texas.gov/genInfo/stateAgencies.cfm>

Live Updates

All of the relevant information our office has gathered during the week will be posted to our Facebook page. By "liking" us, you will stay up-to-date about important matters across the state that affect you and your family. Click below to find our page.



Contact Information

State Representative
Dan Huberty
[Email Dan](#)

Casey Christman
Chief of Staff
[Email Casey](#)

Jack Reed
Legislative Director
[Email Jack](#)

Capitol Physical Address:
1100 Congress Avenue
E2.408 Austin, TX 78701

Capitol Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

Capitol Phone:
(512) 463-0520

District Address:
4501 Magnolia Cove
Suite 201
Kingwood, TX 77345

District Phone:
(281) 360-9410

Amy Peterson
House Public Education
Committee Director

[Email Amy](#)

House Public Education
Committee Clerk

[Email Chandler](#)

Capitol Fax:
(512) 463-1606

*This newsletter was not sent by State expense.
Paid political advertising by Friends of Dan Huberty.*